



Choose Your Hive Location



THINGS
TO
CONSIDER

“2 Feet or 2 Miles”

The choice of a hive location is important. Once you’ve set it, your are limited in how far you can move it.

The general rule is you can move a colony less than 2 ft, otherwise you need to move it more than 2 miles away for several weeks. After which you can move it back.

Where to set your hive?

- Out of Sight
 - Shielded from neighbors, not everyone loves bees.
 - Protection from theft. (Yes, people do steal colonies!)
- Flight Path
 - Consider the flight path of the bees. Avoid facing colony towards sidewalk.
- Space around hive
 - You need plenty of space around a hive. Avoid setting next to a fence or in the middle of your garden.
- Ground cover
 - Mowing and weed-eating around a hive can be an ‘experience’. Consider some ground cover.

Hive Orientation

- It is preferred to have the hive entrance facing south / southeast. This allows for morning size to warm up the colony in the morning.
- Wind breaks – Having some sort of a wind break on the north/northwest side of the hives to block winter winds. (Can be temporary)
- Full sun – It is considered best practice to place hives in full sun. It is believed that this helps with pest control. (I personally prefer full sun in the morning that transitions to shade in the afternoon.)

Water

Access to water is critical.

If you don't have nearby creeks, ponds or other sources of water, you need to provide it.

Keeps bees out of your neighbor's pool.

Must be constant supply, do not let it go dry.



Physical Access

If your hives aren't located in your backyard but are 'in the country' or other place, here are some things to consider:

- Can you drive up to your hives?
 - You'll have to carry in/out any equipment if not. Think of a 60lb honey super!
- What about during inclement weather?
 - Does water collect nearby?
 - Are you driving through mud?
 - Snow in the winter?
- What about gates?
- Livestock nearby?
 - Cows love to rub on things. You'll need to fence off the hives.

Colony Inspection Basics



Use your Senses

- Vision
 - Pay attention to what you see.
- Smell
 - Your nose will tell you if something is amiss.
- Sound
 - Will help you determine temperament and possible queen-rightness.

Have a Plan

- It is considered best practice to know why you are doing an inspection. What is your goal? What are you looking for? As a new beekeeper, don't be afraid to do frequent inspections. It will help you build your base of knowledge. As you gain experience, only do inspections when required.
- Inspection Frequency: Every 7-10 days in Spring; Less frequently once supers are on.
- Estimate of the adult bee population: How many frames of bees?
- Estimate of the juvenile bee population: How much brood?
- Queen Status: Eggs? Larva? See the queen?
- Categorizing brood pattern (good, fair, poor): Solid? Spotty?
- Honey bee diseases/viruses: What do larva look like? Capped brood?

Take Notes!

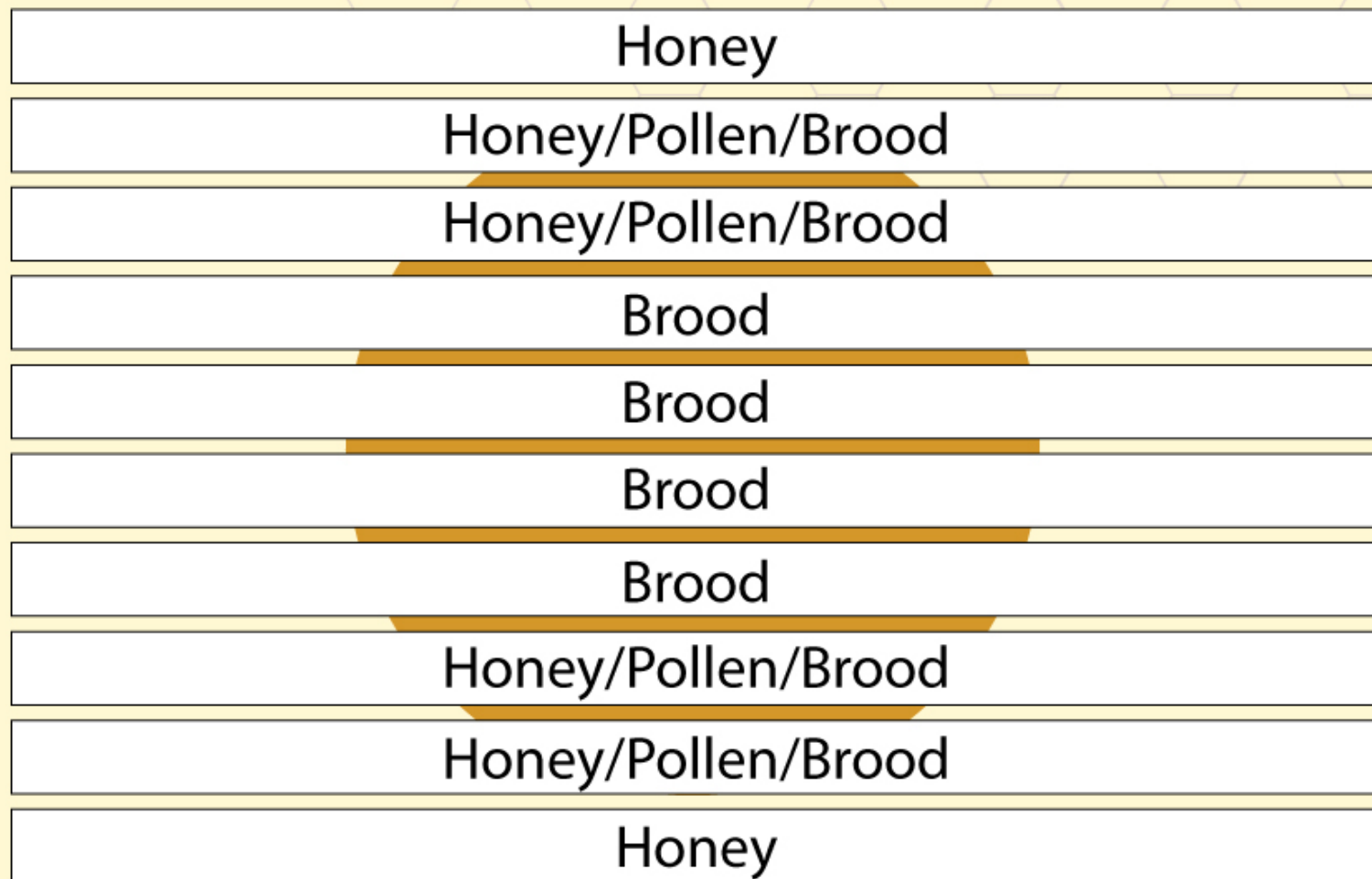
1	Hive ID: <u>A1-2016X</u>						Strength:	<u>1</u>	Deeps:	<u>2</u>	Supers:	<u>0</u>
	Eggs	Brood	Drones	Queen	Honey	Pollen	Activity:	<u>2</u>	Stores:	<u>3FH</u>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Temper:	<u>2</u>	Odour:	<u>Sweet</u>		
Varroa / Count		SHB	Wax Moth	Nosema	Dysentery	Chalk/Sac	AFB	EFB				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>8</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Treatment:		<u>Oxalic Acid Vapour (2 grams / 60 sec)</u>										
Feed	Syrup:	<u>---</u>	Pollen:	<u>2PP</u>	Swarm Cell:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Split:	<input type="checkbox"/>	→ Hive ID: <input type="text"/>			
Notes:	<u>Strong hive actively foraging in cold weather. Animal damage on deep corner.</u>											
To Do:		<u>Check mites in 3 weeks</u>							Date	<u>04/24/18</u>		

From the Outside

- Slow, deliberate, fluid, smooth are all words that should describe your movements during a hive inspection...find your happy place then begin work.
- What's happening at the front door?
- Lightly smoke the entrance.
- Don't block the front, work from the sides.
- Remove outer cover, place on ground upside down.
- Remove inner cover, couple puffs of smoke.
- Pull an outside frame, gently and straight. Try not to 'roll' the bees. Set aside.



General Hive layout



Represents the cluster of bees that keep the brood warm in cooler weather.

Inspecting Frames

- As a new beekeeper, look at every frame. Identify what is on the frame. As you gain experience, you can shift frames outward and move directly to the brood area.
- Learn to understand what you are looking at.
 - Nectar
 - Capped honey
 - Bee bread (pollen)
 - Eggs, larva, capped brood
 - Types of bees: Newly hatched, workers, drones, queen.
- It isn't critical to find the queen, just evidence she's around.
 - Eggs? (Small grains of rice)
 - Larva? (Should be pearly white)

Closing Up

- Frames go back in same order.
- Always make sure frames are pushed together, leaving no space, centered in the box.
- Jot down your inspection notes now! You'll forget later.
- Make sure you have all of your equipment. Hide tool in the grass?

Develop your own system

- Everyone develops their own 'style' when doing hive inspections. Figure out what works best for you. There is no right or wrong way to do inspections.

